

Abstract of the Disclosure

A blind connection for joining foam core panels which comprise a central sheet of foamed resinous material, having top and bottom wooden rails and veneers bonded to opposites sides of the central sheet and the rails. The rails have abutting side edge faces, with matching slots formed along the length these side edges. The slots have undercut retaining surfaces which are engaged by retaining surfaces formed on a joining member which is inserted into these slots in joining the panels in assembled relation. The use of modified joining members in connecting foam core panels that are in angled relation to each other is also described. Wear resistant retaining surfaces may be provided for slots in the foam core by solid polymer liners. Where panels are joined to form a valance, a plate leveler on one panel, first mounted on an overhead support, accurately positions a second panel which is slid upward to capture a portion of a joining member that has previously been disposed in the panel that has been mounted on the overhead support. The second panel is then mounted on the overhead support. In addition to disclosing panels connected in edge to edge relation, dual joining members connect the edge of one foam core panel to another foam core panel intermediate the length of the latter. Where relatively high panels are joined, a first joining member and an alignment strip are first positioned in an undercut slot in one panel, then a second panel is shifted in edge face engagement with that panel, above the joining member, as the alignment strip enters the undercut slot in the second panel. The second panel is then displaced downwardly to engage the joining member in the undercut portion of its slot. Finally a second joining member is inserted into the upper ends of the panels, to join the upper end portions of the panels. Additionally a method for

customizing panels on an installation job site is provided through the use of a portable, electrically powered saw to cut a panel to a desired width and a portable, electrically powered router to form an undercut slot for receiving a joining member.